

31. *BURMANNIA CHAMPIONII* THW.—AN ADDITION TO THE  
FLORA OF SOUTH INDIA

(With a text-figure)

During a recent plant exploration visit to the forests of Silent Valley, Palghat Dist., Kerala, marked for clearance for dam construction, a small, slender, more or less flexuous, unbranched, white, saprophytic plant was found growing in the decaying leafmould of the forest floor. On critical study, it has been identified as *Burmattia championii* Thw. This is the first report of its occurrence in India; the previous reports being from Sri Lanka, southern parts of China, Japan and Malaysia. A detailed description and illustration is furnished below incorporating the intraspecific variations observed, to facilitate locating this rare plant from other forest areas, as well.

*Burmattia championii* Thw. Enum. Pl. Zeyl.

325. 1864; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 5: 666. 1888.

Herbs, 4-13 cm, stem simple, grooved, 1-1.5 mm diam. Scales 4-15, spirally arranged, appressed, erect, lanceolate, acute,  $5 \times 2.5$  mm, glabrous, 1-nerved. Inflorescence a bifid cincinnus cyme. Flowers 2-7, trimerous, white, erect, subsessile, with 3 prominent primary ridges alternating with secondary ones. Bracts trian-

gular—lanceolate, acute,  $4 \times 2$  mm, (apical ones shorter and narrower) glabrous, 1-nerved. Perianth tube trigonous,  $6 \times 1$  mm, glabrous; outer perianth lobes lanceolate, acuminate,  $2.5 \times 1.5$  mm, thick, with involute papillose flap at the margin; inner lobes ligulate, acute,  $1.5 \times 0.25$  mm, reflexed at margins, papillose. Stamens 3, opposite to the inner perianth lobes, attached a little below the lobes, with very short filament; anther dumb-bell shaped; connective broad with a median inflexed mucro and two lateral teeth. Ovary inferior, trigonous, ellipsoid—obovoid,  $4.5 \times 1.5$  mm, glabrous, unilocular with three parietal placentae; ovules many. Style with stigma 6 mm long; style filiform, 3-branched at the tip bearing terminal stigmas; stigma funnel shaped, with a broad rotund undulate membranous appendage.

It is interesting to note that the perianth persists and shows slight elongation after anthesis.

Flowering: September-October.

Specimens examined: Kerala, Panthanthode, 900 m, 21-9-1977, J. Joseph 51427 (MH).

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MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

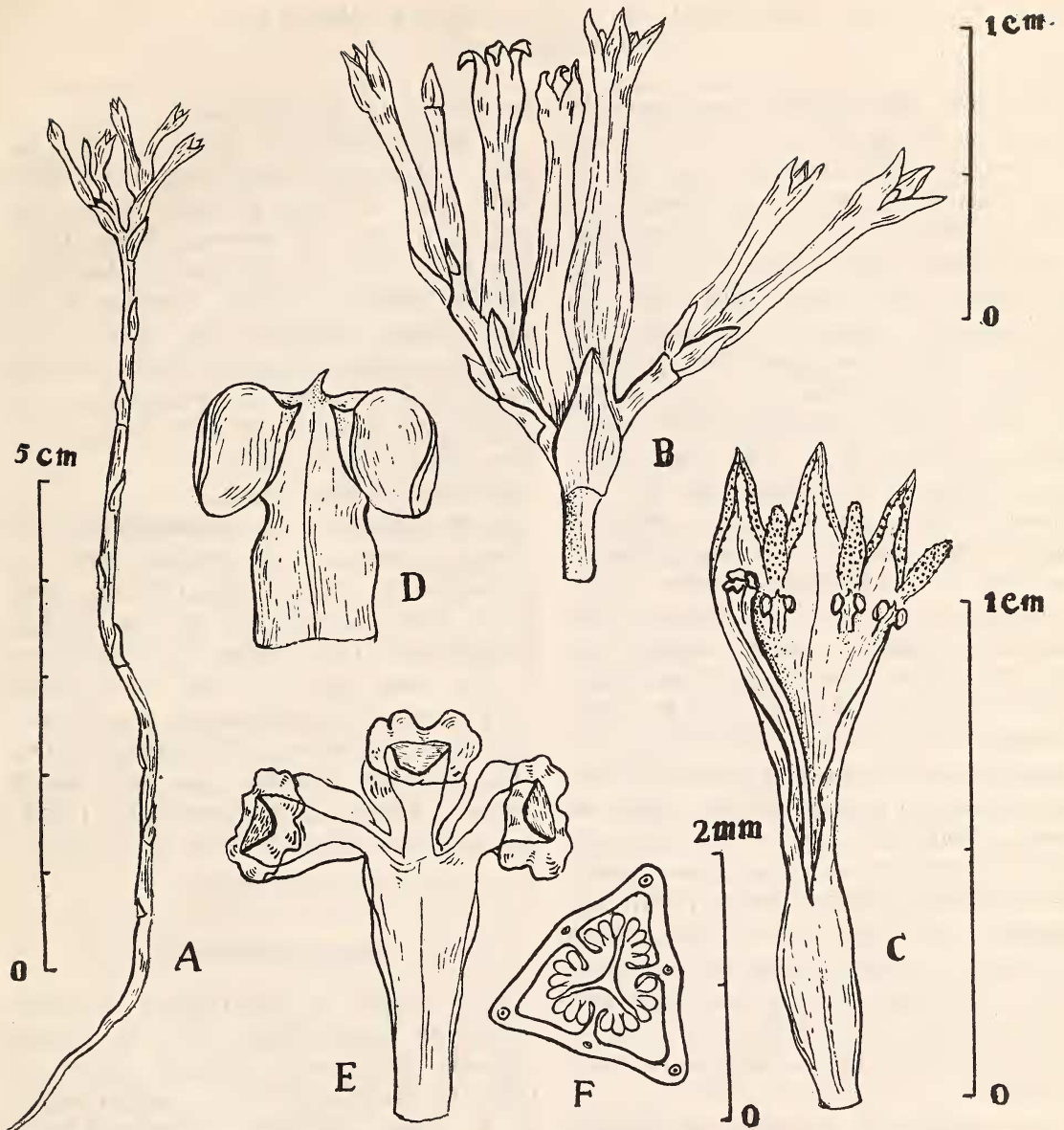


Fig. 1. *Burmannia championii* Thw.: A. Habit; B. Inflorescence; C. Flower—Perianth tube split open; D. Stamen; E. Stigma; (D and E, not to scale) F. Cross section of ovary.